

LYMAN (G. H.)

In Memoriam

Charles Edward Buckingham

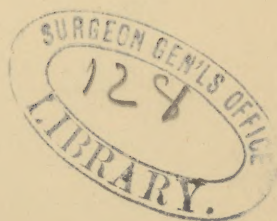
BY

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BOSTON, MASS.



REPRINT FROM VOLUME II
Gynecological Transactions
1878





Chas. E. Buckingham. M.S.

IN MEMORIAM.

CHARLES EDWARD BUCKINGHAM.

HARDLY has our Society entered upon its new career than it is called upon to mourn the loss, by death, of some of its members.

The distinguished Simon, of Heidelberg, from whose experience we had anticipated such valuable contributions, was suddenly taken from us, before he could even learn of his election as Honorary Fellow.

Previous to this our second annual meeting, another of our small original number, Dr. Charles E. Buckingham, of Boston, has died, thus depriving us of one from whose professional culture and experience we had also looked for rich contributions.

It seems fitting that the Society should not allow such events to pass unnoticed, and that some allusion should be made to the virtues and labors of those taken from us, if only as an added stimulus to work while work be possible.

Dr. Buckingham was born in Boston, in 1821; was graduated at Harvard College in 1840 (M. D. 1844).

He inherited from his father, who was an able and influential journalist, a vigorous style, with which he was always ready in debate, having opinions of his own, and never hesitating to express them; too much a man and too earnest for the truth to fear generous criticism, — honorable and upright himself, he was caustic and severe in denunciation of anything savoring of meanness or trickery in professional conduct.

In his earlier professional years he had a hard struggle with adverse circumstances, and limited means, with no outside influences to help or push him forward, — conscious of his own ability but condemned as it were to inaction, — it is not strange that with his temperament he should, when occasion offered,

have resented with perhaps too much causticity anything which savored of favoritism or pretense in others. As he advanced in years, his real merits becoming better known, he entered gradually but surely upon a full and remunerative practice, and it may safely be said, that but few physicians in this city have enjoyed to a greater degree the confidence and affection of a larger circle of patients.

To the profession he is, by general admission, a great loss ; being always foremost in promoting its interests ; despising every taint of charlatanism, whether regular or irregular ; prompt to recognize and assist in every way those who were ready and willing to help themselves ; in council generous and considerate, leaving no trace of superiority behind him either by word or look to poison the family of the sick one with doubts of the wisdom of their own adviser ; in his social relations with his brethren every whit a gentleman, — this Society may well join his more immediate friends in deploring his loss.

As a writer Dr. Buckingham was clear and vigorous, but in his later years too busily occupied and too much an invalid for any elaborate literary work. He had, however, made considerable progress in the accumulation of material for a treatise on Obstetrics which he hoped at some time to complete.

His interest was always manifest in all questions relating to the public welfare, such as the organization of the Board of Health, protection against small-pox, and other contagious diseases, and his contributions to these and kindred subjects in the medical and daily journals were frequent and valuable. In his earlier years he was active in the establishment of the *Boylston Medical School* in coöperation with Drs. Bacon, Walker, Kneeland, E. H. Clarke, Thayer, Dalton, and Williams. Later he was appointed one of the surgeons of the *Boston City Hospital*, Adjunct Professor of Theory and Practice in the *Harvard Medical School* and subsequently became Professor of Obstetrics in the same institution, where he proved himself an instructive teacher and an impressive lecturer, his large experience enabling him to illustrate his teachings in such a graphic way as to fix them in the mind of his hearers. He was also at the time of his death Consulting Physician to the *City Hospital*, and the *Boston Lying-in Hospital* ; Fellow of the *London Obstetrical Society*, and of the *American Gynecological Society*, and corresponding member of

the Philadelphia Obstetrical Society. The last few years of his life were years of suffering from complicated cardiac troubles which finally resulted fatally on the 10th of February, 1877, at the age of 56.

The loss of such a man can only be fully appreciated by his more immediate professional associates, but this Society knew enough of his merits to desire that he should be one of its original Fellows.

GEORGE H. LYMAN.

BOSTON, *June 2*, 1878.

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